



# BOUNDARY COUNTY PROFILE

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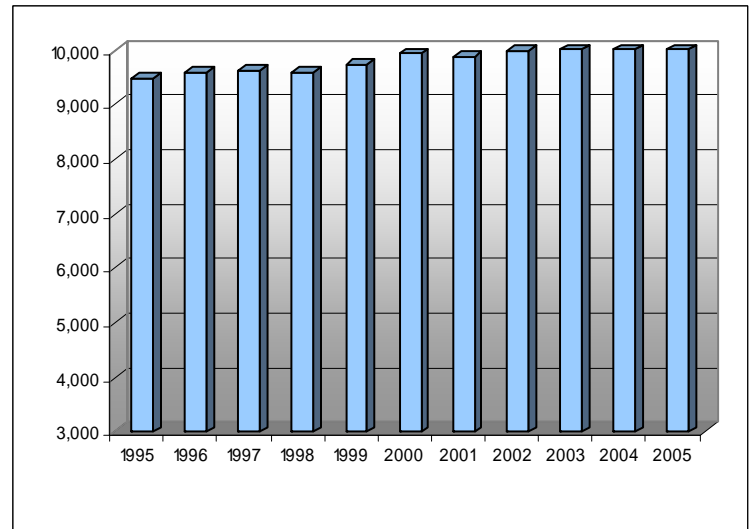
June 2006

## Population

Boundary County's scenery, recreational opportunities, quality of life, and expanding job market drew many new residents from the mid-1980s until 2001. From 1995 to 2005, the county's population grew 12 percent from 9,468 to 10,619, while Idaho's population grew 21 percent and the U.S. population grew 13 percent.

In an average year in the 1990s, 118 more people moved into Boundary County than moved out. Since 2000, the county's population growth has slowed to 50 more people moving in than moving out each year.

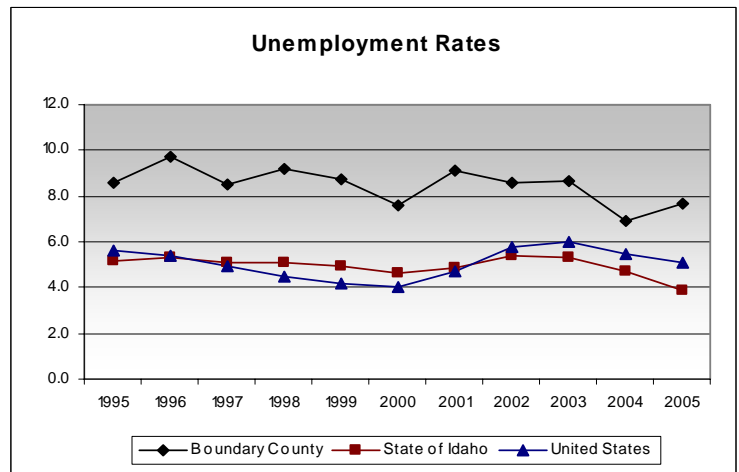
About 90 percent of the county is forested, so most of the county's population lives in the Kootenai River Valley, where Bonners Ferry has a population of 2,700 and Moyie Springs has a population of 705.



## Labor Force & Employment

Timber and agriculture are the county's traditional mainstays. During the 1990s, the timber industry in Boundary County bucked the trend of declining employment seen in most of the Pacific Northwest. Unfortunately, that trend caught up with the county in 2003, when it lost one of its two largest mills. Agriculture's importance as an employer increased in the 1980s, when Anheuser-Busch developed Elk Mountain Farms, a large hops farm, and when several ornamental tree nurseries and Christmas tree farms opened.

Boundary County also diversified its economic base in the last two decades. In 1982, CEDU Services founded Rocky Mountain Academy, a boarding school for troubled teens near Bonners Ferry. By 2004, CEDU employed more than 330 people, making it the county's largest employer. In March 2005, CEDU went into bankruptcy and closed its schools. In late 2005, Idaho Educational Services began reopening the CEDU schools, and currently employs about



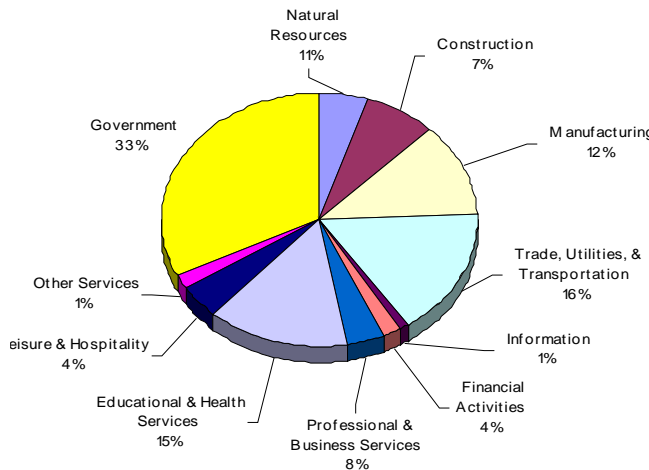
100 people. In 1986, the Kootenai Tribe opened the Kootenai River Inn in Bonners Ferry, giving the county's small tourism industry new potential. In the 1990s, the tribe added a casino. The tribe recently expanded and renovated the inn and casino. The city of Bonners Ferry (named by tourists as Idaho's "friendliest city") recently completed downtown improvement projects that should bring even more visitors in coming years.

Despite the loss of two major employers since 2003, Boundary County has managed to keep employment and population stable. 2006 looks likely to bring the county significant economic growth.

Labor Force	May 2005	May 2006
Civilian Labor Force	4,341	4,110
Total Employment	4,012	3,848
Unemployed	329	262
Boundary County % Unemployed	7.6	6.4
State of Idaho % Unemployed	3.9	3.4
U.S. % Unemployed	5.1	4.7

Labor Force	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Civilian Labor Force	4,268	4,391	4,480	4,511	4,469	4,215	3,991	4,110	4,147	4,324	4,308
Unemployment	366	425	380	414	387	320	365	351	358	298	329
% of Labor Force Unemployed	8.6	9.7	8.5	9.2	8.7	7.6	9.1	8.5	8.6	6.9	7.6
Employment	3,902	3,966	4,100	4,097	4,082	3,895	3,626	3,759	3,789	4,026	3,979

## Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2004



## Boundary County Trends

Wages in Boundary County tend to be lower than in most of the United States. The average annual wage for a job in Boundary County in 2004 was \$26,400, while it was \$39,400 in the U.S. The difference partly reflects the county's lower cost of living, but also results from long-term high unemployment, which tends to push wages down. The low wages and labor availability may prove a draw to businesses looking for a place to locate. Boundary Economic Development Council works closely with existing businesses that wish to expand and with businesses considering moving into the county.

### Large Employers

Boundary County School District
Boundary Community Hospital
Elk Mountain Farms
Idaho Educational Services
Kootenai River Inn & Casino
Riley Creek Lumber
U.S. Government (border patrol & forest service)
Welco of Idaho Inc. (mill)

### Occupational Wages\*

### Starting Wage

Bookkeepers	\$8.00
Carpenters, Journey-level	\$13.25
Cashiers	\$6.50
Clerks, General Office	\$7.75
Clerks, Retail	\$6.25
Cooks, Restaurant	\$7.00
Farm Workers	\$7.50
Janitors	\$7.80
Laborers, General	\$8.75
Millwrights	\$15.10
Nurses, Registered	\$16.20
Sawmill Workers	\$10.50
Secretaries, General	\$8.50
Truck Drivers, Heavy	\$10.50

\* Additional Occupational Wage data can be found on the Idaho Commerce & Labor website at [lmi.idaho.gov](http://lmi.idaho.gov).

Covered Employment & Average Annual Wages Per Job for 1994, 2003, & 2004	1994		2003		2004	
	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages
Total Covered Wages	2,801	\$18,022	3,453	\$25,033	3,612	\$26,368
Agriculture	437	\$19,499	351	\$27,001	424	\$28,693
Mining	*	*	0	\$0	0	\$0
Construction	121	\$17,215	210	\$27,023	251	\$29,975
Manufacturing	242	\$24,899	407	\$30,936	406	\$32,820
Trade, Utilities, & Transportation	526	\$17,011	509	\$22,047	531	\$22,627
Information	25	\$12,131	23	\$20,317	24	\$15,134
Financial Activities	72	\$14,266	65	\$24,385	68	\$27,672
Professional and Business Services	75	\$14,378	119	\$29,075	129	\$34,924
Educational and Health Services	248	\$18,369	496	\$24,416	493	\$25,686
Leisure and Hospitality	200	\$7,262	137	\$8,246	152	\$8,142
Other Services	44	\$13,732	41	\$16,700	51	\$17,775
Government	810	\$19,581	1,096	\$25,599	1,084	\$26,454

Per Capita Income	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Boundary County	\$13,736	\$14,687	\$15,577	\$16,488	\$16,926	\$17,045	\$17,296	\$17,841	\$18,127	\$19,064
State of Idaho	\$18,707	\$19,426	\$20,248	\$20,648	\$21,789	\$22,786	\$24,075	\$25,185	\$25,330	\$26,877
United States	\$22,172	\$23,076	\$24,175	\$25,334	\$26,883	\$27,939	\$29,845	\$30,575	\$30,804	\$31,472

Information provided by U.S. Census Bureau



This county is served by the office listed below:  
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